

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
and
U. S. Department of Commerce
Weather Bureau

Nebr. Dept. of Agr. & Inspection
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
and
Agricultural Extension Service
of Nebr. College of Agr.

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 2-7-56

Week Ending 2-4-56

WEATHER Temperatures averaged near normal for the State as a whole during January, but were generally below normal in the east to slightly above in the west. The first two weeks of the month were unusually mild, but cold weather prevailed thereafter. Precipitation averaged only slightly below normal, and all occurred as snow during the latter half of the month. There was less than the usual amount of wind, practically no drifting, and no damaging local storms.

Very cold weather prevailed until the end of the week, when temperatures moderated to near or slightly above normal. Snowfall ranged from light in the west to moderate to heavy in the east, and occurred early in the week. Wind movement was rather low, and there was little drifting. Days were bright and sunny except for cloudy weather during the first two days of the week.

CROPS Winter wheat received considerable benefit from the snow that fell early last week. It was rather light in the west and heavier in the east. The snow in the west was ample to protect the wheat. A number of counties reported some drifting in the eastern half of the state. The present snow, when melted, should furnish considerable moisture for the topsoil.

1300 2-7-56

Reported depths of snow by the close of the week are as follows: Panhandle, 1.9"; North Central, 3.8"; Northeast, 6.3"; Central, 5.7"; East Central, 6.6"; Southwest, 2.0"; South Central, 5.3"; and Southeast, 5.3". The average depth for the state was 4.6". Recent high temperatures have melted some of the snow and enough of the frost has left the ground so it is believed the soil can absorb all of the moisture from the snow. This moisture should greatly help the winter wheat to survive the winter.

Additional auction sales of farm property were reported by a number of the counties. Some farmers are seeking work in other occupations. A number of farmers are sending in seed for testing.

There is continued interest in pump irrigation. One reporter commented, "The hopes born by irrigation are certainly a most stabilizing influence on the courage to face the drought which so marked the area during the 30's." It adds much to the stability and economic security of the state. Economical production gained by irrigation, better varieties of crops, commercial fertilizer, mechanization and improved tillage methods means everything to the present and future of the state.

LIVESTOCK The low temperatures of the past week increased the feed requirements of livestock. Some counties are facing a shortage, while others have a surplus. One county reported some low grade alfalfa hay selling for \$15 per ton, ranging to \$30 for the best grade, and averaging \$20 to \$23 per ton.

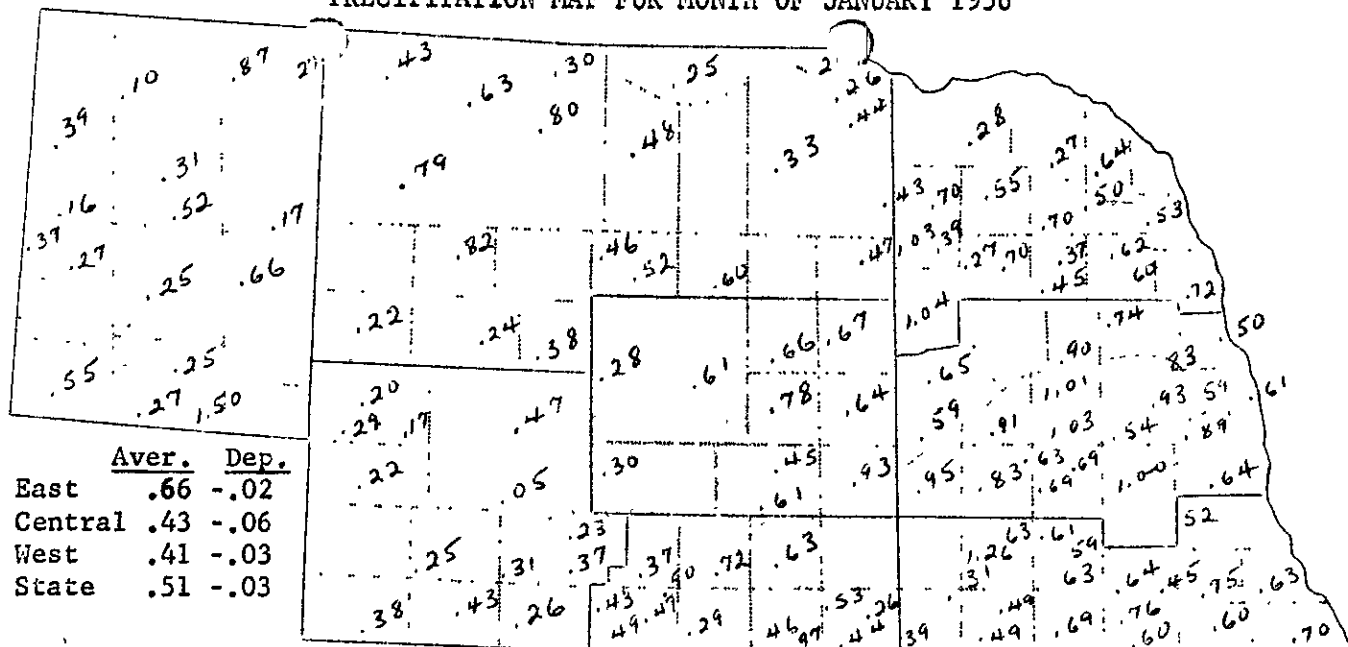
The low temperatures of the past week were rather severe on newly born lambs. Some chicks are being received by farmers. There were a few reports of sow farrowings.

Final reports on slaughter of livestock show considerable increase in hogs and cattle slaughtered with decreases in calves, sheep, and lambs. Slaughter of cattle in Nebraska last year showed an increase of 9%; calves, a decrease of 17%; hogs, an increase of 35%; sheep and lambs, a decrease of 4%. Nationally, the increase in cattle slaughter was 3%; hogs, 15%; sheep and lambs, 2%; with a decrease of 3% in calves slaughtered.

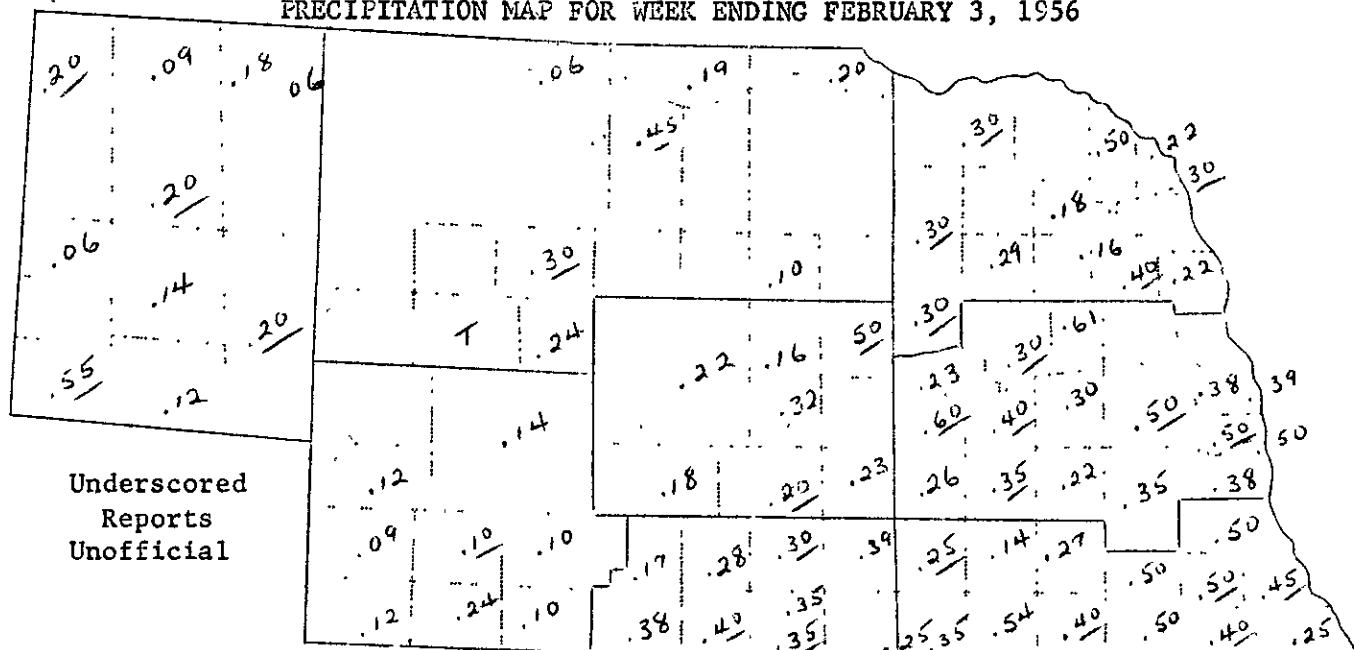
WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 6, 1956

| <u>Eastern Division</u> | <u>Central Division</u> | <u>Western Division</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Grand Island .23 | Burwell .10 | Chadron .02 |
| Lincoln .35 | North Platte .12 | Imperial .05 |
| Norfolk .29 | Valentine .04 | Scottsbluff .01 |
| Omaha .39 | | Sidney .09 |
| Sioux City .22 | | |

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1956



PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 3, 1956



HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES (Highs for 24 hours ending at 12:30 a.m., and lows for 12 hours ending at 6:30 a.m. CST)

| | | Jan. 31st | | Feb. 1st | | 2nd | | 3rd | | 4th | | 5th | | 6th | |
|-----|--------------|--------------|-----|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | Max | Min | Max | Min | Max | Min | Max | Min | Max | Min | Max | Min | Max | Min |
| NW | Chadron | 9 | 0 | 7 | -16 | 14 | 1 | 27 | 9 | 32 | 15 | 47 | -- | 49 | 30 |
| | Scottsbluff | 16 | 5 | 4 | -8 | 13 | -8 | 25 | 3 | 33 | 8 | 40 | 7 | 46 | 19 |
| | Sidney | 30 | 6 | 13 | -7 | 10 | -3 | 25 | 0 | 36 | 11 | 43 | 10 | 44 | 19 |
| NC | Burwell | -- | -- | -- | -- | 5 | -15 | 16 | -9 | 26 | -3 | 32 | 2 | 43 | 12 |
| | Valentine | 13 | -7 | 5 | -1 | 5 | -19 | 16 | -2 | 26 | 5 | 32 | 9 | 39 | 24 |
| NE | Norfolk | 16 | 4 | 16 | 12 | 15 | -10 | 16 | -10 | 28 | -2 | 35 | 7 | 37 | 22 |
| | Sioux City | 15 | 7 | 18 | 13 | 18 | -11 | 14 | -7 | 22 | 11 | 36 | 6 | 37 | 20 |
| CEN | Grand Island | 22 | 9 | 18 | 9 | 14 | -7 | 20 | -4 | 31 | 1 | 36 | 13 | 41 | 22 |
| EC | Lincoln | 24 | 14 | 26 | 22 | 22 | 0 | 23 | 2 | 26 | 8 | 36 | 15 | 40 | 29 |
| | Omaha | 17 | 4 | 22 | 19 | 20 | -4 | 15 | -1 | 22 | 3 | 27 | 12 | 35 | 22 |
| SW | Imperial | 31 | 11 | 17 | -1 | 9 | -5 | 24 | -2 | 36 | 12 | 43 | 12 | 43 | 18 |
| | North Platte | 26 | 12 | 16 | 1 | 8 | -11 | 21 | -5 | 31 | 3 | 37 | 10 | 43 | 19 |

U. S. Department of Agriculture
203 P. O. Building, Box 1911
Lincoln 1, Nebraska

Penalty for Private Use to Avoid
Payment of Postage \$300